REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 remain in this application.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Steen et al. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended (and dependent claims 2 and 3) patentably distinguish over the rejection of record. Not surprisingly, Steen's main purpose and use for his invention is different from Applicants'. Steen is concerned with remote data access and system control (the title of the patent) while Applicant is focused on dispensing of fluids such as lubricants at a service facility with the networked communications taking place to insure proper authorization and allocation of costs for billing purposes.

The specification (at page 7, lines 4-14) sets forth succinctly how Applicants' invention differs from the prior art in general and from Steen in particular. While the cited portions of Steen do speak of encrypting transmissions, this is no more than well known network housekeeping and security. The norm for network devices such as Ethernet and WiFi cards is for each such device to have an address (a MAC address) assigned to the device at the factory. Applicants' invention removes the need for this unique address assignment in its fluid management network.

Claim 1 calls for the central device to be registering a remote location device on the central control device and "assigning and transmitting an encrypted address unique to each said remote location device from said central control authorization point and storing said unique address on said remote location device." These limitations are nowhere shown nor suggested in the references of record. Steen does not appear to show what the addressing scheme utilized is.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas B. Farrow

Registration No. 28582

Graco Inc.

PO Box 1441

Minneapolis, MN 55440

(612) 623-6769

dfarrow@graco.com